

Appl. No. 09/593,978

PATENT
Docket No. EPI-023 US
7008082001REMARKS

Claims 1-15 have been rejected. Claims 2-3 and 10 have been cancelled. Claims 1 and 6 are amended.

Claims 1-3, 5-6 and 15 stand rejected under 35 USC 102(e) based on U.S. Patent No. 6,256,043 issued to Aho et al. ("Aho").

Aho discloses:

In accordance with another aspect of the invention, when the proprietor of a virtual store, or his representative, e.g., electronic agent, detects the avatar of one or more persons in the vicinity of, e.g., passing, the avatar of a store for which such proprietor's store corresponds to the virtual store for such passing persons, a message, such as an advertisement, or other communication, such as opening a communication channel, e.g., a chat service or voice communication channel, may be transmitted to, or initiated with, such passing persons. The communication may be general in nature or it may be customized as a function of information available regarding the passing persons. Advantageously, a feeling of community may be engendered in the virtual environment

(Col. 2, lines 42-55). Aho does not disclose "indicating the number of visitors comprises displaying a radar screen that provides on one screen a visual comparison of different locations within the website where the visitors are browsing," as recited in claim 1 as amended. Therefore, applicants submit that claim 1 as amended is patentable over Aho. Given that claims 4-5 and 11-15 depend from claim 1 as amended, applicants submit that these claims are also patentable over Aho.

Aho does not disclose "detecting the browsing pattern comprises indicating that the visitor is navigating through pages of the website and providing the dialog box comprises

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directing the visitor to a page that is of interest to the visitor," as recited in claim 6 as amended.

Therefore, applicants submit that claim 6 as amended is patentable over Aho.

Claim 4 stands rejected under 35 USC 103 based on Aho in view of U.S. Patent No. 6,272,531 issued to Shrader ("Shrader").

Aho and Shearer, alone or in combination, neither disclose nor suggest "indicating the number of visitors comprises displaying a radar screen that provides on one screen a visual comparison of different locations within the website where the visitors are browsing," as recited in claim 1 as amended. Therefore, applicants submit that claim 1 as amended is patentable over Aho in view of Shrader. Given that claim 4 depends from claim 1 as amended, applicants submit that this claim is also patentable over Aho in view of Shrader.

Claims 7-14 stand rejected under 35 USC 103 based on Aho in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,877,759 issued to Bauer ("Bauer").

Aho does not disclose "detecting the browsing pattern comprises indicating that the visitor is navigating through pages of the website and providing the dialog box comprises directing the visitor to a page that is of interest to the visitor," as recited in claim 6 as amended.

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Bauer discloses:

TABLE 1

<u>Recognized Object Categories</u>			
Context/ Input Mode -> Recognized as category:	Text selected somewhere or typed into the funnel	Iconic representation selected or dropped onto funnel	Direct manipulation
Person(s)	name of a person, an e-mail address, a roster of people (e.g. discussion/news group/mail list)	Picture ID of that person or business card (v- card) or VRML avatar	
Thing(s)	File/folder name	File/folder Icon or VRML object	
Place(s)	URLs, local machine name, local file path	Bookmark icon, VRML location	
Time frame	1:00 PM, 8 September, tomorrow, next week, at lunch, over dinner		Drag along the time track (start time/end time)
Generic Text	anything that cannot be recognized in the aforementioned categories		
Activities	Users may also use a verbal description of the request directly, e.g. "send," "mail," "fax," "set up (lunch tomorrow with Michael)"		
Third Party recognizers	Third parties can provides plug-in recognizers that can interpret additional or more specific object types, e.g. the name of a city or country could be recognized by the XYZ travel organizer which provides travel information for a specified region		

(Col. 8, lines 21-53). Bauer does not disclose "detecting the browsing pattern comprises
indicating that the visitor is navigating through pages of the website and providing the dialog box

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comprises directing the visitor to a page that is of interest to the visitor," as recited in claim 6 as amended.

Even if Aho and Bauer were combined, the combination would neither teach nor suggest "detecting the browsing pattern comprises indicating that the visitor is navigating through pages of the website and providing the dialog box comprises directing the visitor to a page that is of interest to the visitor," as recited in claim 6 as amended. Therefore, applicants submit that claim 6, as amended, is patentable over Aho in view of Bauer. Given that claims 7-9 depend from claim 6 as amended, applicants submit that these claims are patentable over Aho in view of Bauer.

Aho and Bauer, alone or in combination, neither disclose nor suggest "indicating the number of visitors comprises displaying a radar screen that provides on one screen a visual comparison of different locations within the website where the visitors are browsing," as recited in claim 1 as amended. Therefore, applicants submit that claim 1 as amended, is patentable over Aho in view of Bauer. Given that claims 11-14 depend from claim 1 as amended, applicants submit that these claims are also patentable over Aho in view of Bauer.

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Reconsideration and allowance of the claims is respectfully requested. The Examiner may call the Assignee's attorney at (650) 849-4952 to further advance prosecution of this case to issuance.

If the Commissioner determines that additional fees are due or that an excess fee has been paid, the Patent Office is authorized to debit or credit (respectively) Deposit Account No. 50-2518, reference no. 20224489-7008082001.

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